

## Community resources

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## Viewing cable 09BRUSSELS912, WORKING WITH THE EU ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATIONAL

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### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#09BRUSSELS912**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
<a href="#">09BRUSSELS912</a>	<a href="#">2009-07-02 10:18</a>	<a href="#">2011-08-30 01:44</a>	<a href="#">CONFIDENTIAL</a>	<a href="#">USEU Brussels</a>

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsnight>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/newsnight/9483790.stm>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-13378567>

<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk>

<http://www.greenpeace.org/usa/en/news-and-blogs/campaign-blog/new-wikileaks-revelations-shed-light-on-arcti/blog/34736>

<http://www.thenation.com/blog/160631/wikileaks-news-and-views-blog-thursday-day-166>

<http://blogs.ft.com/energy-source/2011/05/12/the-battle-over-greenlands-oil/>

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5ihhnQuXHwVOFswGcLlhFwiCs9gRQ?docId=6832936>

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jchSEXNkbbPv1AB4mJOcmsY2WddA?docId=CNG.4232f6ae19eb54c58c9d35b7f0b4995b.861>

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FM USEU BRUSSELS

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUEHZN/ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE

RUCNMEU/EU INTEREST COLLECTIVE

RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/02/2019

TAGS: [ECON](#) [PGOV](#) [KGHG](#) [SENV](#) [ENRG](#) [EUN](#)SUBJECT: WORKING WITH THE EU ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATIONAL  
SECURITY: NIC ENGEL VISIT

Classified By: CDA Christopher W. Murray for reasons 1.4(b) and (d)

¶1. (C) Summary: In Brussels, June 15-17, Major General Richard L. Engel, USAF (Retired), Director, Climate Change and State Stability Program, Long Range Analysis Unit, National Intelligence Council (NIC) heard from high level Europeans that: the connection between security and climate change -- including, but not limited to adaptation and emergency response -- is a shared concern; a positive outcome of the UNFCC December meeting is vital; that China and India are major players; the countries of Africa face multiple challenges, and there are excellent possibilities for increased U.S.-EU cooperation in research. End Summary.

¶2. (SBU) Rich Engel, NIC's Director of Climate Change and State Stability Program, discussed the security aspects of climate change and urged increased U.S.-European research cooperation. He briefed colleagues in Embassy Brussels, USEU and USNATO and met with EU and NATO representatives. The previous week, Engel had been in London, participating in an interactive geo-political modeling conference -- the Arctic Game -- to explore national interests of an opening Arctic organized by the National Intelligence Council. The trip to Brussels was a natural add-on, strongly supported and coordinated between U.S. Mission and the U.K. Permanent Representation.

¶3. (SBU) Engel spoke to 80 officials at the European Commission's DG RELEX during a lunch time debate. The mixed audience of Commission and Council staffers, and think tanks, NGOs and media representatives, was convened as part of a training program, held under Chatham House rules, to discuss important policy issues. He gave a presentation on the results from a National Intelligence Assessment on the national security ramifications of global climate change. Noting that the study went only to 2030 and did not consider mitigation effects, Engel said the expectation is that climate change will aggravate existing problems such as poverty, social tensions, environmental degradation, ineffective leadership and weak political institutions that threaten state stability, but will not be the fundamental cause of any failed state. He listed three principal ways climate change would affect national security: water availability, agricultural productivity, and extreme weather threats to economically significant infrastructure. He also briefly described the Arctic Game and explained how this type of event provides insights to analysts. In response to audience calls for recommendations, Engel stressed the NIC's role in providing information to policy makers, turning aside questions on what should be the optimal results of the December UNFCC meeting in Copenhagen.

¶4. (C) The USEU Charge d'Affaires hosted a dinner for Engel that was attended by, among others, The Norwegian Ambassador to the EU; the Canadian DCM; the Special Counselor to HR Solana for Climate and Energy; and Tom Spencer, a former MEP, and now with the NGO International Environment Security. Engel reviewed the Arctic Policy Game run in London the previous week and discussed the security risks global warming poses to India and China, particularly those associated with glacier melt. He focused on Russian behavior during the Arctic exercise, much to the interest of the Norwegian, Canadian, and other officials. Spencer said that unlike western states, China and India will not have the capacity to adapt and this shortcoming will have serious regional, if not global, repercussions. The Charge added that the United States and the EU must intensify efforts to getting China and India to agree to a deal at Copenhagen. Solana's climate advisor said that the security dimension of climate change was a major focus for the EU and the Norwegian Ambassador

stressed the importance of the High North --the Arctic -- to Norway.

15. (C) At an informal breakfast meeting of the EU Political and Security Committee, Engel reviewed the work done by both U.S. and EU analysts on the issue of climate change and national security noting in particular a well-known U.K. research center. He urged greater cooperation in research and modeling data in the near term (6 months to 5 years) and called for more work on precipitation and major circulation patterns. Engel offered to provide U.S. studies and expressed a strong interest in EU expert evaluations as to how changing conditions will effect Europe. Helga Schmid, Director at the Council Policy Planning Early Warning Unit, noted the discussions she had had with Engel in Washington and spoke about EU papers on Africa, Asia, the Middle East and on Latin American and Southeast Asia. The U.K. Ambassador said that they had ongoing climate change studies with France on the Sahel and with China. The German Ambassador said that major coordination was needed in the

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international science community and that government funding was necessary to transform science knowledge into action. Engel described the process used in the National Intelligence Assessment and provided a readout on the geo-political Arctic policy game held in London.

16. (C) In response to the Irish Ambassador's query about business community reactions, Engel quoted NIC Chairman's report to Congress that energy, environment and the economy are interdependent. The Danish Ambassador pointed out that security aspects were a subset of climate change and that countries in Africa have more immediate problems, many of which require better governance, including land and water management. The Dutch Ambassador suggested that in addition to looking at North Africa and its possible impacts on Europe, it was equally important to consider the tropics, as large African populations below the Sahel will also seek to move north. The Spanish Ambassador introduced the topic of "good news" and the possibility of improvement in agriculture in some areas. Engel said that there could be short term benefits, but gave the example of Russia where warmer temperatures will also increase aridity and melting permafrost will cause serious problems with energy producing infrastructure. Turning to energy issues, the Romanian Ambassador asked about effects on oil and energy resources in the Caspian and Black Sea regions. Engel said that energy destabilization anywhere in the world was a concern but that during the period considered in the U.S. assessment -- up to 2030 -- the climate effects on hydrocarbon sources of energy were not significant. The Lithuanian Ambassador argued that climate change might just be a normal historic pattern with human activity only a small component. Engel replied it was a sensitive debate, but that from a national security standpoint, the cause of change doesn't really matter, it's the results and the response that count. The French Deputy inquired about the public role in the NIC's deliberation, process and results. Engel noted that this subject had significant unclassified components and noted the unprecedented posting of certain reports on the internet website at [www.dni.gov](http://www.dni.gov).

17. (C) In addition to USNATO colleagues, Engel also met with emergency planning and operations representatives at NATO. He had a useful exchange on scientific cooperation with the Director of the Science for Peace and Security Section.

18. (SBU) Engel devoted a significant amount of time for media outreach working with USEU Public Affairs and with the European Regional Hub. He was interviewed by a German radio station, a Danish newspaper, and reporters from Europolitics and Reuters based in Brussels.

19. (SBU) Post would welcome a follow-up visit later in the

year, when additional area reports have been completed.

MURRAY

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